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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the matter of)	
)	
Petition of the Public Service Commission)	NSD File No. L-01-87
of South Carolina for Delegation of)	CC Docket No. 99-200
Authority Pertaining to NXX Code)	CC Docket No. 96-98
Conservation Measures)	

REPLY COMMENTS OF TRITON PCS, INC.

Triton PCS, Inc. ("Triton"), by its attorneys, hereby submits these reply comments in response to the Petition of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina for Delegation of Authority Pertaining to NXX Code Conservation Measures (the "Petition").¹ The comments of the other parties in this proceeding confirm that the Commission should deny the Petition until the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "PSCSC") can demonstrate that it has met the Commission's standards for granting a state additional number conservation authority.

Triton files these reply comments to focus on a handful of specific issues raised in the initial comments. In particular, Triton wishes to respond to the comments of the Consumer Advocate, which claim that the 803 and 843 NPAs are in jeopardy;² to the comments of CTIA, which points out that the PSCSC has the ability to engage in significant number conservation activity without additional authority from the Commission;³ and to the comments of BellSouth

¹ See "Common Carrier Bureau Seeks Comment on the Petition of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina for Delegation of Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures," *Public Notice*, NSD File No. L-01-87, CC Docket No. 99-200, CC Docket No. 96-98, rel. May 3, 2001 (the "Notice").

² Comments of Philip S. Porter, Consumer Advocate for the State of South Carolina ("Consumer Advocate") at 1

³ Comments of Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association ("CTIA") at 7-8.

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and Sprint, which advocate Commission action on pending national issues relating to number pooling.⁴

First, the Commission should disregard the claims of the Consumer Advocate that the Petition should be granted because the 803 and 843 NPAs “are in jeopardy.”⁵ “Jeopardy” is a specifically defined term in numbering nomenclature, and means that the date of projected exhaust is sooner than the date of projected relief.⁶ That plainly is not the case for either the 803 NPA or the 843 NPA. As described in more detail in Triton’s initial comments, both NPAs have had relief plans pending before the PSCSC for more than three months and there is ample time to implement those relief plans if the PSCSC acts on them.⁷ Thus, the 803 and 843 NPAs are not in jeopardy, and the Commission’s criteria for granting a state regulator’s request for pooling authority are not met.⁸ Moreover, the Consumer Advocate’s plea for the Commission to grant additional authority to the PSCSC, regardless of whether the Petition meets the established criteria for such action, is particularly inappropriate because the PSCSC has not taken any of the steps that are within its existing authority to reduce the demand for number resources.

Indeed, the Commission should recognize, as described in CTIA’s comments, that the PSCSC has an important numbering resource conservation tool available to it whether or not the Petition is granted, in the form of rate center consolidation.⁹ As the Commission previously has explained, rate center consolidation can greatly increase the efficiency of the use of NXX codes in an NPA, forestalling the need for area code relief without limiting carriers’ access to

⁴ Comments of Sprint Corporation (“Sprint”) at 3-4; Comments of BellSouth Corporation (“BellSouth”) at 2-4.

⁵ Comments of Consumer Advocate at 1.

⁶ See Numbering Resource Optimization, *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, 14 FCC Rcd 10322, 10331 n.24 (1999).

⁷ Comments of Triton at 2.

⁸ *Id.* at 3-6.

⁹ Comments of CTIA at 7-8

numbering resources.¹⁰ Wireless providers already enjoy such efficiencies because they do not duplicate the incumbent local exchange carrier's rate centers when they assign numbers, but the potential savings in NXX codes for landline carriers are enormous. Consequently, the Commission should, at a minimum, strongly encourage the PSCSC to employ rate center consolidation as a primary means of numbering resource conservation.

Finally, Sprint and BellSouth suggest that the Commission, rather than continuing to expend resources on state-by-state numbering conservation petitions, should focus on completing the process to implement number pooling across the country.¹¹ Triton supports this view. As a relatively small carrier that, nevertheless, serves customers in half a dozen states, Triton is acutely aware of the potential burdens of patchwork, inconsistent implementation of number pooling. These burdens are particularly acute for smaller carriers that may serve only portions of several states. Further, enforcement of a national rollout schedule will prevent states from attempting to game the system, as they are today, by seeking numbering conservation authority as a way to avoid relief altogether. The Commission's announcement that NeuStar has been selected as the national pooling administrator is a step in the right direction, but continued efforts to implement pooling on a national, uniform basis are necessary.¹²

¹⁰ Numbering Resource Optimization, *Order*, DA 01-656, CC Docket Nos. 99-200 & 96-98, NSD File Nos. L-01-273, L-00-206, L-01-275, L-01-276, L-01-277, L-01-272, L-01-274 (Com. Carr. Bur.) (rel. Mar. 14, 2001), ¶ 10.


¹¹ Comments of Sprint at 3-4; Comments of BellSouth at 2-4.

¹² See "Federal Communications Commission's Common Carrier Bureau Selects Neustar, Inc. as National Thousands-Block Number Pooling Administrator," *Press Release*, rel. June 18, 2001.

For all these reasons, Triton PCS, Inc., respectfully requests that the Commission act in accordance with these reply comments and deny the Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 22, 2001

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Vicki Lynne Lyttle, a legal secretary at Dow, Lohnes & Albertson, PLLC do hereby certify that on this 22nd day of June, 2001, copies of the foregoing "Reply Comments of Triton PCS, Inc." were served via hand-delivery (indicated by *) or first-class mail, postage prepaid, on the following:

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